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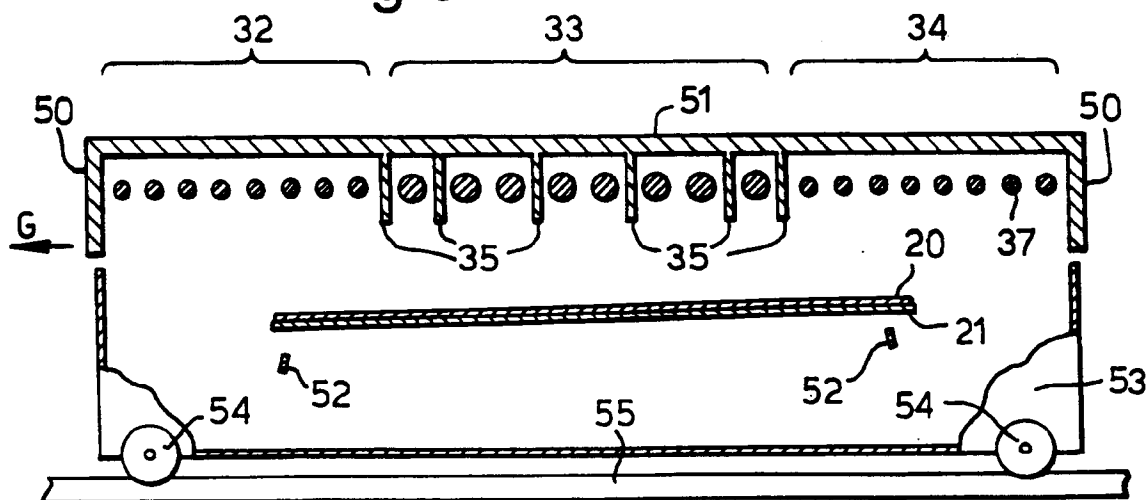
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(54) Glass bending furnace

(57) A furnace (1) is provided for the heating of glass sheets (20,21) to be bent, whereby precise control of the temperature profile across a sheet may be achieved, resulting in improved control over the shape to which the sheet is bent. The furnace has at least one differential heating zone (S3,S4) provided with a plurality of main heating elements (37), characterised by a shield (35, 45, 115, 125), associated with said furnace and located in said zone (S3,S4) on the same side of a glass sheet to be bent as said heating elements (37), for directing heat radiated by said heating elements (37) whereby a controlled differential heating of the glass may be achieved.

The invention also relates to a method of bending a glass sheet, and to a glass sheet bent in such a furnace.

Fig.6.
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 94 30 9435

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	US-A-3 249 415 (MCMASTER) * the whole document * ---	1-24	C03B29/08 C03B23/023
X	US-A-3 457 060 (LEFLET) * the whole document * ---	1,3,7,8, 11,14, 16-20, 23,24	
X	EP-A-0 376 509 (FORD MOTOR COMPANY LIMITED) * the whole document * ---	18,19,24	
P,X	EP-A-0 592 862 (TAMGLASS ENGINEERING OY) * the whole document * ---	18,19,24	
X	EP-A-0 486 952 (TAMGLASS OY) * the whole document * ---	18,19,24	
A,D	EP-A-0 443 948 (SAINT-GOBAIN VITRAGE INTERNATIONAL) * the whole document * -----	1-24	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) C03B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 13 November 1995	Examiner Van den Bossche, W
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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